



# WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter September 2020

## WEBSITE

Our web site now includes:

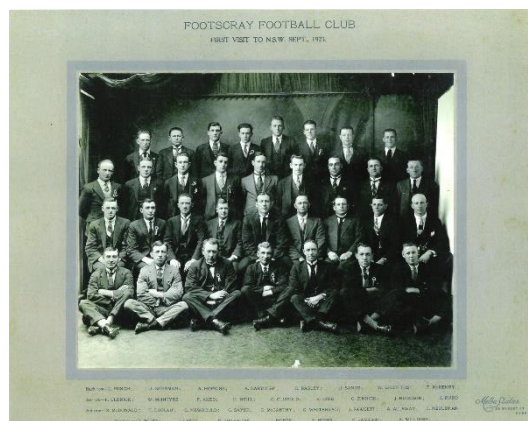
- previous editions of the newsletter
- podcasts
- Match Day information

The address is

[www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers](http://www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers)



**The Two Dogs Podcast**  
Episode 6  
Kevin Hillier interviews  
Bernie Quinlan and  
Barry Round



## END OF SEASON TRIPS

We are planning a feature on *End of Season Trips* for a future newsletter. If you have any photos or stories we would love you to send them to [ross.abbey30@gmail.com](mailto:ross.abbey30@gmail.com) or contact Ross Abbey on 0412073092.

In 1925, at the end of Footscray's first season in the VFL, the End of Season Trip was to NSW.

## A tribute to David Darcy

(133 games, 47 goals, 1963–66, 1968–71 plus four state games)



By **ROSS BRUNDRETT**

*As a kid growing up in Footscray, Ross Brundrett wore Dave Darcy's no.15 on the back of his Bulldog jumper and his main claim to footballing fame was being in the same year at Kingsville Primary School as Ted Whitten jnr.*

*His first job as a journalist was at The Footscray Mail where he covered Bulldog games for eight years, and for a further three years at the Western Times. He later wrote for The Sunday Press before spending the last 24 years of his career as a senior feature writer and columnist for the Herald Sun.*

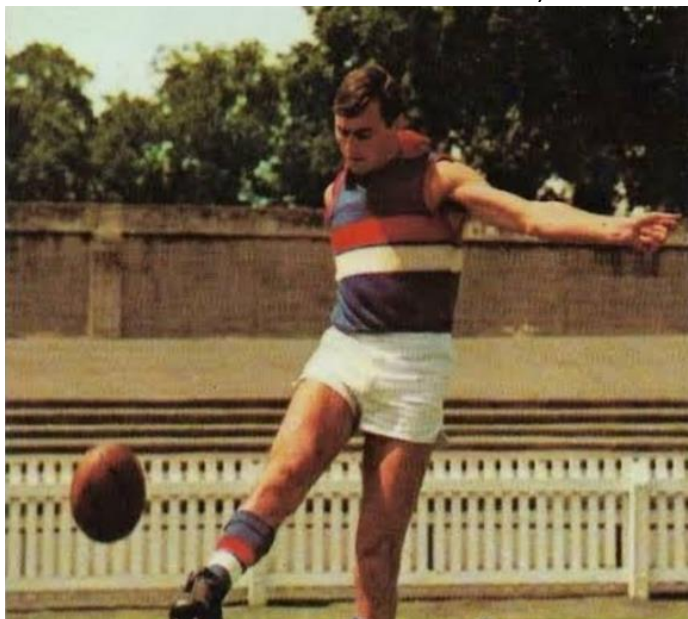
For Bulldog fans, there wasn't a lot to celebrate in the latter years of the '60s and early '70s. Wins were few and far apart, so supporters had to make do rejoicing in the resolute actions of their heroes; the Herculean efforts of EJ, the unsinkable determination of under-sized (but bighearted) ruckman John Schultz, the irrepressible cheekiness of wee Georgie Bisset and out back, shining like a beacon, the silky smoothness of No. 15, David Darcy.

Dave, who passed away suddenly on 1 August, was a prototype of the fullbacks to come; an attacking defender who could mark and kick as well as, if not better than, the champion full forwards he played on.

Later he became better known as the father of Luke, the Charlie Sutton medallist and All-Australian ruckman and the first winner of the Leigh Matthews Trophy awarded by the AFL players for the competition's most valuable player (he shared the honour with Brisbane's Michael Voss).

But for those who can remember, Dave was a star for the Bulldogs almost from the moment he made those big steps from Sunshine YCW to Western Oval in 1962, lured by the prospect of earning one pound a match in the Under-19s. As luck would have it, a 'flu outbreak' meant that in no time at all he was playing for the Reserves who went on to win the premiership that year. He made his senior debut in the first round of '63, alongside Bisset, floating between centre half-forward and defence for the first few seasons.

But it was to be at fullback that he was to shine, as his old teammates attest.



'He wasn't afraid to back his judgment,' said former half-back flanker Ron McGowan. 'He would mark in front if he could – he had very good hands – but he could also defend. He was just one of those blokes who was naturally very gifted at all sports really.'

'He really was a brilliant sportsman,' said former Bulldog half-forward Graeme Cook. 'Cricket (Darcy played for Sunshine in sub district cricket), tennis, golf, he was good at all of them.'

Golf was a particular passion away from the footy field for Darce. 'I only played golf with him once though,' said McGowan. 'He was way too good for a hack like me.'

Football clubs are communities all of their own. They might have a common front but they are made up of people of all sorts; gregarious types and loners, moody souls and loose cannons. But Darce was friends to them all. And everyone loved Darce.

‘There were two blokes who stood out at the Bulldogs as absolute gentlemen, one was John Schultz and the other was David Darcy,’ said Alan ‘Doc’ Mannix, who played 112 games for the Dogs in those tough years.

‘In all my time at the club I never heard one bad word said against Darce, he got on with everybody.’

It’s a sentiment echoed by so many Bulldogs who crossed paths with Darcy. Another member of the Bulldog defence in those days, Kevin Delmenico, recalled how decades later he asked Darcy to appear at a surprise party for a female work colleague who had been a big fan. ‘I hadn’t been in contact with him for many years but of course he turned up. That’s the kind of person he was.’

Not that Darcy was some kind of angel. ‘Well, he wasn’t the fittest bloke,’ recalled Cook. ‘Every training night we would end up by running laps and Darce’s laps would get smaller and smaller until they were virtually just running around the centre circle.’

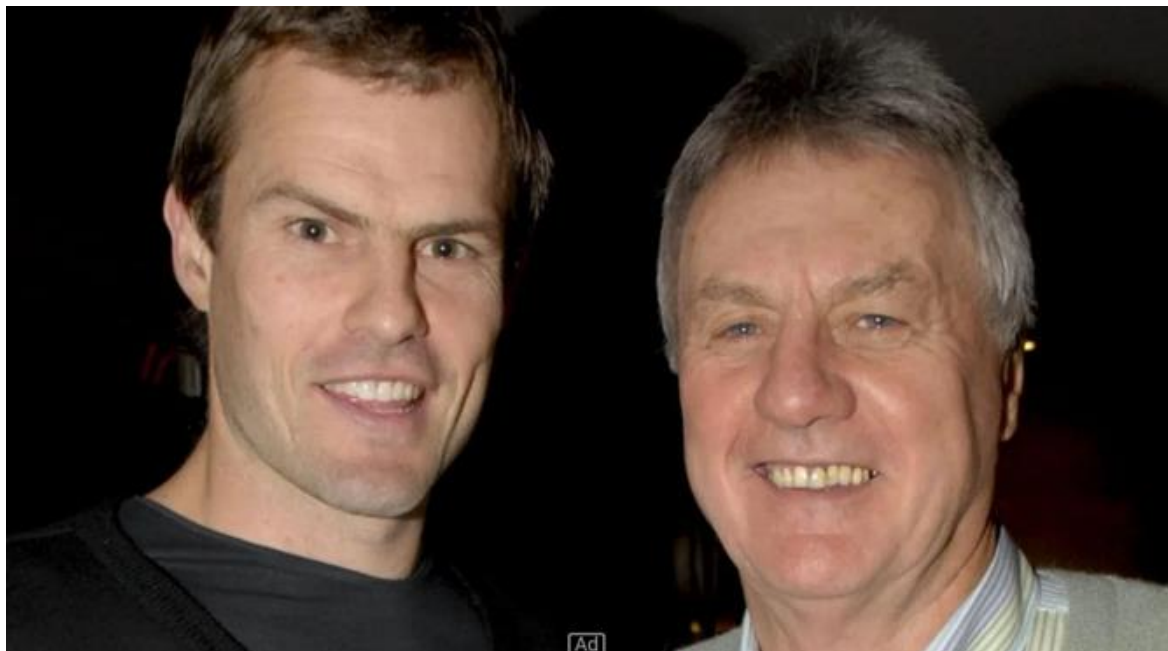
‘He enjoyed a beer with the boys and a smoke . . . he’d always manage a smoke at three-quarter time,’ said McGowan who followed Darcy to South Adelaide where the star defender ended his career and also coached.

It’s worth noting that Darcy also interrupted his Bulldog career earlier for a one year stint at South Adelaide because of his work, and even though the Bulldogs refused to clear him until round 8, Darcy still managed to finish third in the Magarey Medal despite missing half the season.

Two other players who felt privileged to play alongside Darcy were Gordon Casey and Ross Abbey, both of whom would go on to wear the big V just as Darcy did four times.

Abbey joined the Dogs in 1971, in what proved to be Darcy’s last season. ‘He was a hero of mine growing up and I had his photo on my bedroom wall so it was a bit surreal to play with him. I didn’t get to know him very well but he was such a skilful player and a very genuine person.’

For Casey, who arrived at the club after one game as a forward with Carlton, it was a revelation. ‘There was a spot in the back pocket left vacant by Ian Bryant so I got the nod and I remember what a calming influence Dave was. He was very skilful and could deliver the ball so precisely, so we developed this plan to chip the ball short from the kick-offs and then go long to avoid the normal packs – but that was a bit unheard of back then,’ said Case.





‘Back then you didn’t short pass in defence, and you certainly didn’t handball . . . so we had to run the idea past EJ who finally said, ‘You can give it a go, but don’t stuff it up.’

‘Anyway, it worked pretty well,’ he said. No stuff-ups? ‘We weren’t game!’

A success in business as well as sport, Darcy also had to overcome tremendous personal tragedy, as his old teammates all attested. While still in his early 20s and having just welcomed the arrival, months earlier, of his first child, Darcy’s wife, Margaret, suffered an aneurism and died while Darcy was playing football.

‘It was a shocking thing, just out of the blue like that,’ said McGowan.

Delmenico recalled that both himself and Darcy had been dropped to the twos – he suspected because they had attended a barbecue at Charlie Sutton’s house at a time when the legend was not seeing eye-to-eye with some club officials. ‘It was about halftime in the reserves and Dave got the news and just rushed home . . . a terrible tragedy.’

Mannix was with EJ when the news hit. ‘Teddy didn’t know whether to tell all the boys, but I told him he couldn’t keep something like that quiet.’

McGowan believes the tragedy was one of the reasons Darcy later moved to South Australia the first time, for a year ‘just to get away from things for a while’.

When he returned to the Western Oval it was the same easy-going Darcy as before. ‘You know, whether it was football, or golf, or whatever, he was always laidback, never uptight,’ said Cook, who, along with McGowan, was in the bridal party at Darcy’s second wedding to Janet. ‘But he was always in it to win it.’

## Garry Baker (1972–73, 14 Games)



By **NEIL CORDY**

*Neil Cordy played 235 VFL/AFL games with Footscray and the Sydney Swans. After his AFL career Neil coached and played for East Sydney. He worked for Network Ten for 15 years as a reporter/presenter and on their AFL coverage. He was the AFL Editor for the Daily Telegraph from 2011 to 2018 and is currently a member part of ABC Grandstand’s AFL broadcast team.*

First impressions mean a lot and that’s why the Bulldogs are still close to Garry Baker’s heart almost 50 years since he left Footscray for Melbourne.

It’s little wonder he looked for greener pastures at the end of the 1973 season.

The Western Oval was the land of the giants – and very talented ones at that.

Gary Dempsey and Barry Round (both later to be Brownlow Medallists) were holding the fort in the ruck and Bernie Quinlan (also to later be a Brownlow hero) was swinging between half-forward and half-back. Throw in Peter Welsh, Gary Merrington and Ian Salmon (from Garry’s hometown, Leongatha) and the Kennel was swamped with big men.

All those players lined up in Baker’s debut against Essendon at the Western Oval in round one 1972.



*Ian Salmon, Gary Dempsey, Garry Baker and Barry Round*

'It looks like a lot now with some teams playing just one ruckman, but in those days teams were playing four,' Baker said.

'You would have two rucks on the ball, one resting in the forward pocket and one resting in the back pocket. I was completely overawed in that first game. It was Des Tuddenham's first game as captain coach and all I could see was the vein coming off his biceps. I was very toey and I remember during the warm up Gary Merrington took me for a run along the Gordon Street (Doug Hawkins) wing. He said let's just run up and down close to the fence and get used to the crowd. I'll never forget that.'

The Bombers beat Footscray by 10 goals and it was Baker's last senior game for the year, but to get to that level of football from where he was just a few years earlier was a minor miracle. In 1968 he couldn't get a game in the Under-16s for Leongatha and played two matches the entire season. This came after consecutive premierships the two previous years in the Under-14s.

'Nobody ever changed junior clubs, but I did and went to Meeniyan,' Baker said.

'I played a year of Under-16s and then one year in the seniors and that's when I got a letter from Kevin Webb inviting me to try out at Footscray. I've still got it!'

Baker missed out on the 1971 list and returned to the bush before being recalled later in the same year. He clearly remembers playing his first game at Waverley Park against Geelong in the reserves.

'The rooms at Waverley were bigger than Meeniyan Dumbalk's ground,' Baker said.

'Back home we had to light a fire to get the hot water going. I was thinking, "How good am I?" I remember watching the seniors and Bernie Quinlan dominated, he kicked seven and he was still only 21.'

Thirteen games followed for Baker in 1973 and an outstanding performance in a reserves final against Carlton attracted the interest of Melbourne.

'Jim Caldwell (Melbourne's secretary) was a legendary figure at the Demons and he called and said they wanted me to be the number one ruck next year,' Baker said.

Baker played the best football of his career at Melbourne winning the best and fairest (Bluey Truscott Medal) in 1978 and playing 127 games in eight seasons before knee injury slowed him down. He went to the Swans in 1982 and 1983 where he played six games and worked as a mentor to younger players.

He later captain coached Mordialloc and Moorabbin in the VFA second division. Both these teams had the misfortune to go into receivership.

'Neither club paid me, so that wasn't what sent them broke,' Baker said.

Baker had packed plenty into his 15 years of senior footy but his amazing footy adventure was only getting started. Tassie was next.

He bought a pub in Sandy Bay in Hobart and trained with the famous Sandy Bay club to keep fit.

In an act of desperation coach Andy Bennett (former Hawthorn and St Kilda) threw him in for round one, but Baker failed to bother the statistician and called it quits.

Later in the season and in even more dire straits Bennett called on Baker again.

'I trained for two weeks for this game and didn't get a kick again,' Baker said. 'I got reported for kicking Craig Hoyer. I got off but, in the two games I played for Sandy Bay, the only kick I got was to Craig Hoyer.'

At this point Baker's boyhood dreams of winning a premiership looked gone but, at the age of 41, the big man rolled the dice one more time with Tasmanian Football Association team Richmond Blues.

The pain and suffering paid off when Baker led the Blues to the 1994 flag with a BOG performance and then won another premiership in 1995.

'I hadn't won a flag since the Under-14s in Leongatha and we had gone back-to-back then, but it was a long time between drinks,' Baker said.

The following year, at the age of 43, Baker returned to Meeniyan Dumbalk United as captain coach but fell just short of another premiership.

Over the years Baker lost contact with Footscray/Western Bulldogs, but an invitation to a past players function at Williamstown in 2012 re-ignited his love for the red white and blue.

He was there at the MCG on Grand Final Day in 2016 and at the Whitten Oval the next day.

'I stood with Stephen Power 10 metres from the race I ran down for my first game in 1972,' Baker said.

'Later on we went down to Barkly Street and had a beer with Bones McGhie. It was a good day. I only had two and bit years at the Dogs but I love the place so much.'

Baker is the owner of Hobart institution the Rockwall Bar and Grill and has recently opened another highly successful restaurant, St Albi in Moonah.

*Rockwall Bar and Grill is at 89 Salamanca Place, Hobart (opposite where the Sydney to Hobart yachts dock)*  
<https://www.rockwallbarandgrill.com.au>



*Kelvin Templeton and Garry Baker at the 2019 Mid-season Lunch and 1974 List Reunion*

## Sachse turned tragedy into opportunity

Peter Ryan The Age 27/8/2020



Neil Sachse, the former Footscray footballer who was left a quadriplegic after an accidental bump during a game against Fitzroy in 1975, has died.

Sachse was a champion footballer for North Adelaide in South Australia winning back to back flags before he crossed to Victoria in 1975 to play with the Bulldogs.

However, in his second game, aged just 24, he stumbled into an oncoming Fitzroy opponent after gathering a bouncing ball and his life was changed forever when he suffered a spinal injury.



Neil Sachse training at Footscray. Age Library

He later said he knew he was in strife when he asked for his boots to be removed only to be told they were already off.

Married with two children he carried on after the accident to raise funds for spinal research and become an advocate for people living with a disability.

He began the Neil Sachse Centre devoted to spinal cord research.

He was also a considered voice for ensuring the game remained safe for players. He played 89 games and kicked 114 goals for North Adelaide in five seasons from 1970-74, and represented South Australia on five occasions.

In 2009, Sachse was presented with the Premier's Award for Outstanding Community Achievement in South Australia and in 2015 he released his biography, *Playing On*, co-written with ABC journalist Michael Sexton.

SANFL CEO Jake Parkinson paid tribute to Sachse who lived to the age of 69.

"Neil was a wonderful player who had his football career tragically cut short," Parkinson said.

"However, he remained a pioneer, committed and tenacious in his pursuit for research and understanding of spinal injuries through his foundation for which our game is the benefactor. He will be deeply missed."



## Kevin Jackman

(guernsey numbers 42 [1965] and 7 [1966–68]; 33 senior games)



By **SCHARLAINE CAIRNS**

Editor of *A History of the Footscray Football Club: Unleashed* and *The Bulldog Heritage Vol.1 & Vol.2* and long-time Player Sponsor

Kevin Jackman came from West Footscray Football Club to commence his career with Footscray in 1965 at the age of 19, winning the Gardiner Medal for the best and fairest in the VFL Reserves competition in his first year and being named on the bench for the night series grand final.

The following season, he and John Schultz were the only two players to play all eighteen home-and-away games and Kevin kicked 28 goals to be the club's leading goalkicker. In his 33-game senior career he would kick a total of 36 goals for Footscray.

When his time with the Bulldogs came to an end, Kevin accepted an offer to become a Williamstown VFA player (along with two fellow Bulldogs Brian Harvey and Bob Percy), largely due to the influence of the Williamstown captain/coach and former South

Melbourne footballer Max Papley. Kevin says Papley 'knew how to coach' and his team moved the ball forward well, in a way that came to be characteristic of Papley's style.



As a result of what Kevin calls 'clever coaching', Williamstown won the 1969 VFA second division premiership. Kevin roved in that grand final victory and kicked four goals. (Throughout the 1969 season, he had also managed five goals on the two occasions Williamstown had played Camberwell, so he was a rover more than comfortable resting on the forward line.) An article at the time of the Williamstown Premiership victory, by local journalist and Williamstown Football Club historian Fred Critchley praised Kevin in the grand final as the 'outstanding player . . . who excelled all day with clever position play, strong marking and accurate disposal.'

It was stated in the 1969 Williamstown Football Club Annual Report that: 'Jackman was a good recruit for Williamstown because many Footscray supporters believe he should be playing League football.'

In 1970, at the age of 24, Kevin was awarded the Williamstown best and fairest in what was another successful season for the club – finishing runners-up to Prahran in the VFA's first division. That year, Kevin was runner-up in the VFA's J.J. Liston Trophy to Yarraville's Fred Cook with whom he had also played at Footscray.

In 1971, Williamstown fell at the last hurdle before the VFA grand final, being defeated by Dandenong in the preliminary final.

Kevin was at Williamstown for seven years (1969–1975), playing 87 games and kicking 153 goals. He was named as a rover in Williamstown's 1970s Team of the Decade.

Of the three coaches Kevin played under at Williamstown (Max Papley [1969–72], ex-Carlton player Barry Gill [1973–74] and Ted Whitten [1975]), Kevin says that Papley was the greatest influence and he describes him and his coaching ability as 'exceptional'.

After a break from football after retiring as a player after the 1975 season, Kevin returned to Footscray in 1990 to assist Terry Wheeler in his first year as coach. He continued in this support role till 1994, acting as a forward scout and assisting Terry on training nights.



After Alan Joyce's time as Bulldog senior coach ended, Kevin was phoned by new coach Terry Wallace and asked if he was interested in taking up the support role again for the 1997 season – which he did, for the very successful 1997 and 1998 seasons in which the club played in two preliminary finals. Those years were the last of Kevin's hands-on involvement with the Footscray Football Club, but he remains proud of the involvement he had in that period of on-field success with such great players as Scott West, Brad Johnson, Chris Grant, Leon Cameron and Tony Liberatore (all of whom he describes as 'exceptionally good players').



Kevin has lived on a small acreage at Gisborne for the past 44 years. He runs beef cattle on 10 acres of his own and on adjoining properties, where his cattle keep his neighbour's grass under control. He and his wife Merrill have three children. Their daughter is a member of the water police, serving at Williamstown, and their two sons, who both work in IT, each have a son and a daughter.

Always a Bulldog at heart, Kevin and his sons rarely miss a home game and Kevin has especially fond memories of the 2016 AFL finals, admitting that, in the lead-up to the grand final, he was nervous about the Swans jumping us. But, once at the game, when the Swans hadn't managed to get away from the Dogs by quarter time, he thought, 'We are a big chance!' After such a long wait, the last seven minutes of that premiership game are, to him, a football highlight he will never forget!

## ***Cats cut him, so Dogs pounced:*** **Mark Hunter – still a punter**



**By RON COLEMAN**

*Former Part Owner and Managing Editor of the Western Times.  
Western Bulldogs Director 1989–95*

Mark Hunter doesn't mind a punt.

It used to be with a Sherrin in his hands. These days it's more likely to be a form guide he's marking.

In the late '80s and early '90s, the dashing defender's raking kicks and hardness at the ball repeatedly drove the Bulldogs into attack.

Fast forward to 2020 . . . and Hunter is equally at home indulging his post-footy passion as a respected form analyst, racehorse owner and professional tipster.

It's odds-on he's made more money from the punt than he did punting the ball. But, as luck would have it, he should have played all his senior football with the Cats.

'No doubt I should have had a long career with Geelong, but for stress fractures in my back which were misdiagnosed when I played in their reserves,' he recalls.

Originally recruited by the Cats from the Melton Bloods, Hunter grew up in a 'footy mad family' barracking for the Hawks. He spent a year in Geelong's Under-19s, where coach Ian Nankervis 'was a terrific influence for the one percenters'.

Promotion to the Seconds came, but injury struck. He fractured his back. 'I had 12 weeks off and when I came back I couldn't run.'

A medical expert later confirmed the damage and the Cats delisted him. He returned to Melton for two years, winning a flag with Butch Edwards. Melton's coach Gordon Casey was keen to get Hunter to the kennel, so the Bulldogs came knocking. So did North Melbourne.

'I knew I had to get fitter, and the Bulldogs started pre-season 10 days earlier, so I chose them'. Hunter slotted straight into Mick Malthouse's 1988 side as a defender, going on to play 130 games and kicking 10 goals.



He kicked a goal and got 12 touches in his first match, as the Dogs beat the Swans by 26 points at Waverley.

We asked if playing on tough guy Bernard Toohey in his debut was a scary experience. 'It should have been, but I didn't really notice. I came off the bench 23 minutes into the second quarter. I had so much nervous energy before the game, I felt (mentally) exhausted. But I managed to scramble a goal (in the third term) from about one metre out.'

Hamstring injuries curtailed Hunter's career, but he stood out in 1994, averaging 20 disposals in 22 games and collecting 365 kicks, the fourth highest in the league. 'I narrowly missed out on state selection to Matthew Hogg,' he recalls.

Another injury ended his AFL foray in 1996, but not his passion for the game. Keeping a promise to his mates, he returned to Melton for two years, doing both hamstrings in a grand final. Stints as assistant coach at Williamstown (1999) and Bulldogs' runner (2006–07) followed.

But for Mark ('Kenny') Hunter the best was yet to come.

Watching his son Lachie play in the Bulldogs' 2016 premiership win was: 'Amazing. Every footballer's dream. Every Doggies' supporter agrees the preliminary final win over GWS was the best game they've seen. It was so emotional.'

And beating the 'hard and tough' Swans in the Grand Final 'is something that can never be taken away from those young players,' he adds. 'I got a greater thrill watching my son in a premiership win than I would have got winning one myself.'



*The Hunter family after the 2016 Preliminary Final win*

Lachie Hunter was born to be an elite athlete. His mum, Colleen (McVeigh), played lacrosse for Australia and Williamstown. His cousins Jarrad and Mark McVeigh had stellar careers with Sydney and Essendon, and his sisters Lauren and Jemma played lacrosse for Australia and Victoria respectively.

Nowadays Hunter works fulltime as a racing form analyst. Among his many commitments are radio segments for RSN .927 and Sky Sports Sydney. His tips for the Spring Carnival? 'It's a bit too early yet, but with the COVID lockdowns it looks like it'll be a year for the locals if the international raiders don't arrive.'

## Quick quiz for Mark:

### Best Bulldog you played with?

‘Scotty Wynd by a mile. As a tap ruckman he was a freak. And courageous, backing into packs whether it was “Plugger” or whoever charging in. He was easily the best and Chris Grant is easily my next best. I missed the best of Hawk’s and Choco’s games.’



*Gary McGorlick, Jose Romero and Mark Hunter at 2018 Reunion of the 1997-98 List*

### Toughest opponents?

‘Greg Williams. Also, playing on guys like Daicos, Michael Long, Gavin Wanganeen or Jimmy Krakouer was never enjoyable.’

### How about your coaches?

‘They all had their good points. I would have run through brick walls for Mick Malthouse. He was intense, and big on defence. “Wheels” (Terry Wheeler) was more an attacking coach, and ahead of his time. I loved “Joycey” (Alan Joyce). He had the word “Honesty” on the board every week, saying you had to look your teammates in the eye after each game. “Rocket” (Rodney Eade), when I was club runner, was one of the most intelligent footy people I’ve come across. Mild-mannered off the field but different on game day’.

### Mates at the Kennel?

‘Nigel Kellett, Danny Del Re, Barry Standfield, Steve Kolyniuk, Scott Wynd. They were a great bunch.’

## Two-way Traffic: Essendon↔Footscray/Western Bulldogs



By **ANDREW GIGACZ**

*Contributing Editor at [australianfootball.com](http://australianfootball.com) and Western Bulldog Supporter*

The north-west suburbs of Melbourne take in two of the traditional VFL footy clubs: Essendon and the club formerly known as Footscray. The Dons were formed five years before the Bulldogs, had a 28-year head start on the Dogs in the VFL, and are clear leaders on the VFL/AFL ‘premierships won’ table.

But, in the ‘Two-way Traffic’ battle, which club has come out in front? Looking through the list of 31 players who have crossed from one of these two clubs to the other, taking it purely from the perspective of winning flags, the Dons emerge as leaders again – although, only just. Only one of the two-club players from these teams has gone on to win a premiership after making the move.



That man was Bob Flanigan, who had five solid seasons with the Bulldogs before making the move to Essendon in 1941. Having played in Footscray’s first ever VFL final in 1938, the left-foot half-back flanker got to play in a Grand Final in his first season at Windy Hill, albeit a losing one, before he and his team went one better in 1942.

Only one other dual Don/Dog has played in a premiership. Jake Stringer was a member of the Bulldogs drought-breaking premiership in 2016 but, a year later, found himself on the outer with the Dogs' hierarchy. He made the move to Essendon, where he has played 43 games to go with his 89 for the Doggies. He'll be looking to emulate Flanigan's post-move effort and become the first player to win a flag at both the Western Bulldogs and Essendon.



Flanigan and Stringer are two of only four players to have made more than 40 appearances for both clubs. The other two were Allan Stoneham (above; 128 games for Footscray, 72 for Essendon) and Stewart Crameri (at right; 57 games for Essendon, 42 games for the Bulldogs).

While Stoneham never really came close to winning a flag, Crameri is perhaps unlucky that he is not the premiership player that Bob and Jake became. Crameri moved to the Dogs in 2014 after playing 57 games for the Bombers but he was suspended for the duration of the 2016 season as part of the Essendon ASADA ban, so he had to watch on as his teammates broke the flag drought in that year.

### Bit of a bugger for the Budgie

Tony Buhagiar is another Don-cum-Dog who was unlucky to miss out. Recruited from East Fremantle in the WAFL, 'Budgie' played at Essendon from 1981 to 1984 and was part of the Bombers' losing 1983 Grand Final side, but he was missing a year later when the Dons turned the tables on Hawthorn, having been dropped after the Preliminary Final, replaced by Frank Dunnell.

Buhagiar is not the only player to have been dropped for a grand final, but he is probably the only one to have suffered that fate after having 23 touches (only four of his teammates had more) and kicking a goal. Budgie joined Footscray the following year, playing all 25 games before the Dogs bowed out in the preliminary final.



Had the Dogs been able to get over the Hawks that day, Buhagiar would have faced his old side in the 1985 Grand Final. But it was not to be, and, despite averaging 16 touches and 1.4 goals per game in his year with the Bulldogs, he decided to return home to Perth, where he played one final season with East Fremantle.

### Man of many talents

Les Stillman is best known for his first class cricketing exploits with Victoria and South Australia, but he was a pretty handy footballer too. Stillman played 24 games for Essendon from 1968 to 1970 and another three for Footscray in 1971 before moving to VFA club Williamstown. He won two best and fairest awards with the Seagulls (whom he captained) and, while there, also had two top-three finishes in the Liston Trophy. He later played for another VFA club, Coburg.



## Return ticket to Windy Hill

Jack Vosti is the only one of the 31 Dons/Dogs who returned to his original club. Vosti played 99 games for the Dons before he was struck down by a knee injury after playing in the opening round of 1932. The injury was serious enough for Vosti to announce his retirement, but an 'expert masseur' worked miracles on Jack and he was able to resume his career in 1933.

However, it was with Footscray that Vosti resumed, where his first match in red, white and blue was his 100th VFL game. Vosti had two solid seasons with the Dogs, polling eight Brownlow votes in 1933, before returning to Windy Hill in 1935, where he played two final matches for the Dons.

## Player moves since the 1970s

| <b>Bulldogs to Dons</b> | <b>Bulldogs</b> | <b>Games</b> | <b>Essendon</b> | <b>Games</b> | <b>Other Clubs</b>    | <b>Games</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Mark Alvey              | 1998–2003       | 45           | 2004–5          | 14           |                       |              |
| Colin Boyd              | 1973            | 10           | 1977–79         | 34           |                       |              |
| Adam Cooney             | 2004–14         | 239          | 2015–16         | 31           |                       |              |
| Wayne Foreman           | 1977–79         | 44           | 1980–81         | 26           |                       |              |
| Ilija Grgic             | 1993–96         | 62           | 1999            | 2            | West Coast<br>1997–98 | 23           |
| Ian Morrison            | 1973–80         | 110          | 1981            | 3            |                       |              |
| Allan Stoneham          | 1972–79         | 128          | 1980–83         | 72           |                       |              |
| Jake Stringer           | 2013–17         | 89           | 2018–20         | 43*          |                       |              |

| <b>Dons to Bulldogs</b> | <b>Essendon</b>  |     | <b>Bulldogs</b> |    |                     |    |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----|-----------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Bill Berry              | 1975–77          | 14  | 1979–82         | 43 | NM<br>1984–85       | 12 |
| Tony Buhagiar           | 1981–84          | 83  | 1985            | 25 |                     |    |
| Stewart Crameri         | 2010–13          | 57  | 2014–17         | 42 | Geelong<br>2018     | 4  |
| Max Crow                | 1974–82          | 136 | 1986            | 12 | St Kilda<br>1983–85 | 40 |
| Trevor Elliot           | 1957–58          | 7   | 1960–61         | 23 |                     |    |
| Peter Hickmont          | 1972–77          | 58  | 1980            | 11 |                     |    |
| Jim McAllester          | 1980             | 2   | 1981–82         | 24 | Collingwood<br>1984 | 10 |
| Les Stillman            | 1968–70          | 24  | 1971            | 3  |                     |    |
| Jack Vosti              | 1925–32,<br>1935 | 101 | 1933–34         | 26 |                     |    |

\* Still playing

## Congratulations

### 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Laurie Rippon pictured with his wife Rebecca at the 2016 Mid-season Lunch  
WB# 574, 1969–1973, 45 Games



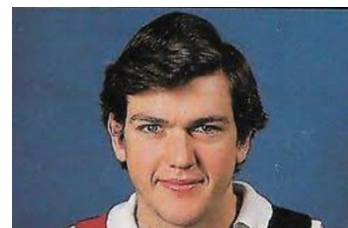
### 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Robert Groenewegen  
WB# 667, 1978–1986,  
79 Games 29 Goals



### 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mark Kellett  
WB# 730, 1983–86,  
63 Games



### 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Luke Beveridge  
WB# 835, 1993–1995,  
31 Games 29 Goals  
Coach 2015–  
2016 Premiership  
Coach



# LOST DOGS

**We would like to send the Newsletters to all Past Players and Officials.**

Keeping the database current is an ongoing challenge as people change email addresses. If you know the email and or mobile of any of the following please forward them to [ross.abbey30@gmail.com](mailto:ross.abbey30@gmail.com)

*Harry Skreja  
Ian Williams  
Lindsay Sneddon  
Tony Fox  
Dallas Patterson*

*Andrew Wills  
Angelo Petraglia  
Brennan Stack  
David Allday  
Colin Shaw*

*Michael Kelly  
Michael Rolfe  
Sedat Sir  
Tony Campbell  
Clive Newman*

## 2020 Committee

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President       | Ross Abbey        | 0412 073 092 |
| Vice President  | Phil O'Keeffe     | 0402 007 270 |
| Secretary       | Owen Madigan      | 0408 105 151 |
| Treasurer       | Andrew Howlett    | 0418 510 635 |
| Committee       | Les Bartlett      | 0416 485 652 |
|                 | Adam Contessa     | 0416 081 259 |
|                 | Graeme Joslin     | 0412 771 235 |
|                 | Matthew Mansfield | 0439 336 939 |
|                 | Gary Mc Gorlick   | 0409 804 057 |
|                 | Ilija Grgic       | 0413 677 736 |
| ALFCPP Delegate | Jack Slattery     | 0425 746 148 |

## Welfare

John Reilly (left) with Gordon Casey, Stephen Power and Andrew Howlett, recently had a knee replacement. His rehab is going well. All his out-of-pocket costs were reimbursed by the AFLPA.

We strongly recommend past players join the AFLPA Alumni. Benefits include:

- up to \$500 refund on excess payments when in hospital if you are in a private Health Fund
- up to \$8000 refund for extra operation charges should you require surgery on body joints, including damaged teeth.
- an opportunity to seek funds from the Geoff Pryor Fund or an Injury and Hardship fund in the event of suffering financial hardship.



The one-off joining fee is \$50. To join, contact Chris Smith at AFLPA on [csmith@aflplayers.com.au](mailto:csmith@aflplayers.com.au) or 0400 019 391.